

CLAIMS

1. An electrical switch comprising:

a casing,

5 first and second fixed contacts,

a moving contact having first and second parts for contact with the first and second fixed contacts respectively,

10 a spring for resiliently biassing the moving contact into contact with both fixed contacts, and

an operating member supported by the casing for movement between first and second positions to cause the moving contact to move into contact with and out of contact from the fixed contacts respectively,

15 wherein the operating member and the spring act upon the moving contact at respective positions that are offset from each other, and

the moving contact is pivotable by the operating member in one direction to separate its first part from 20 the first fixed contact and subsequently in an opposite direction to also separate its second part from the second fixed contact.

2. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the casing includes a support for engagement by the first part of the moving contact to enable the moving contact to pivot in said opposite direction.

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3. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 2, wherein the support is situated on one side of the first part of the moving contact opposite a part of the first fixed contact with which the first moving contact part is to 10 make contact.

4. The electrical switch as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the support comprises a heat sink.

15 5. The electrical switch as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the operating member and the spring act upon the moving contact along respective substantially co-parallel axes that are offset from each other.

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6. The electrical switch as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the moving contact comprises a lever having opposite ends as its first and second parts.

7. The electrical switch as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the spring comprises a compression coil spring.

5 8. The electrical switch as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the operating member includes a spring engaging the moving contact.

9. The electrical switch as claimed in any one of 10 claims 1 to 8, wherein the operating member comprises a pushbutton.

10. The electrical switch as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, being a normally-closed switch in which 15 upon release of the operating member the moving contact is biassed into contact with both fixed contacts.